

NW REGION TRAFFIC OFFICE

SR 522 FALES/ECHO LAKE INTERCHANGE PROJECT

TRAVEL TIME STUDY

MILEPOST 18.72 TO 22.79

August 2006



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**



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I. BACKGROUND

The signalized intersection of SR 522 and Fales/Echo Lake Road was a major choke point for commuters traveling from Monroe to Woodinville. Traffic from Monroe travels westbound on SR 522 to commute to work, and returns eastbound in the evening. The morning commute had the most significant delay due to travel patterns. The traffic volumes pick up around 5:30 a.m. and the backup extended four miles to West Main Street on a regular basis. WSDOT constructed an overpass to alleviate this choke point and it opened to traffic the evening of August 17, 2006. This study determines before and after conditions of the highway to quantify the benefit of the interchange project.

II. STUDY DESCRIPTION

Travel times were obtained by recording how long it took for individual vehicles to travel through the SR 522 corridor. We tracked the license plates of individual vehicles from the West Main Street on-ramp to the Fales/Echo Lake Road intersection. We gathered travel time data on March 22, 2006 and on August 23, 2006 for this study. The data was gathered on a typical weekday during normal commuter traffic. The license plate data was sampled between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. in the morning.

III. AM PEAK STUDY FINDINGS

- Drivers can normally travel the 4.07 mile route in 4 minutes 26 seconds at the 55 mph posted speed limit.
- The average travel time on Wednesday, March 22 was 21 minutes and 22 seconds. Commuters were enduring an average of 16 minutes and 56 seconds of delay approaching the Fales/Echo Lake Road intersection because of the traffic signal.
- The average travel time on Wednesday, August 23 was 4 minutes and 18 seconds. Drivers were traveling above 56 mph through the corridor. Drivers were not experiencing any delays as a result of the new overpass.
- There were no delays on Fales Road or Echo Lake Road when the August 23 study was conducted.
- Below is a graph of the travel time collected:

